

## Forensic Science | Unit 10 Case Study – JonBenét Ramsey

Using the information provided for the case and information gathered from the internet, fill in the required information in the space provided below.

**Introduction to the case:** In 1996, the country was drawn to the case of a 6-year-old beauty contestant thought abducted and later found murdered. The JonBenét Ramsey case gripped the nation. Especially captivating was the suspicion surrounding JonBenét’s parents, John, and Patsy.

Crucial to the case was a ransom note allegedly created by the kidnappers. This note became the central piece of evidence and is why it has been selected as the case study for this unit.

To begin, read the following [Expert Handwriting Analysis article](#) written by an actual forensic handwriting examiner.

Next, read the following case [update from CNN](#).

Finally, watch the following ABC report video regarding the handling of the crime scene: [A Look Inside the Mistakes in JonBenét Ramsey Investigation Noted by Former Police Chief](#)

After reviewing the links above, conduct your own research about the case and answer the questions that follow.

1. Case Name: (1 point)  
**Murder of JonBenet Ramsey**
2. Date crime occurred: (1 point)  
**December 27, 1996**
3. Persons of Interest named in the investigation and relationship to the victim(s): (1 point)  
**John and Patsy Ramsey, Parents**
4. Summary of crime sequence: (Detailed summary of what actually happened) (3 points)  
**On December 27, 1996, JonBenet Ramsey was found dead in the basement of her home. The local police did not have experience with homicides, and were not well equipped to handle the investigation. Her parents woke up early on December 27 and discovered she wasn't in her bed. They found a note that said their daughter had been kidnapped. It demanded \$118,000 for ransom. Her body was found in the basement six hours later. In 2008, DNA of an unknown man was discovered on clothing JonBenet was wearing when she was murdered.**
5. Charges filed against suspect(s): (2 points)  
**No charges, killer was never found**
6. Outcome of the case and current status: (This includes any court proceedings and decisions. Also, include sentencing and dates.): (2 points)  
**Ongoing, Unsolved**

7. In lesson 10.1, you learned about handwriting analysis. From what you have found in your research, what strategies were used to analyze the handwriting in the ransom note? (4 points)  
**The handwriting was compared with the handwriting in Patsy's notebook to determine if she wrote it.**
8. In lesson 10.1, as well as in previous units, you learned about how to properly secure evidence at a crime scene. According to your research, was this crime scene properly secured? Explain why or why not. (4 points)  
**The crime scene was not properly secured. Evidence was contaminated because the local police didn't have experience with homicide cases.**
9. In lesson 10.2, we discussed the ways in which collecting digital evidence can sometimes be at odds with a suspect's civil rights. If law enforcement discovered there was a possibility that one of the suspect's data storage devices had evidence that may solve the murder of JonBenet Ramsey, would you support the search and seizure of the device? On what grounds did you make your decision? What evidence did you find in the lesson or your own research to support your stand? (4 points)  
**I would support the search and seizure of the device. They would get a search warrant for the device and it could contain crucial evidence.**
10. Case significance: (How is this case important to our understanding of Forensic Science? For example, was a new method or technology used in this case?) (3 points)  
**It shows how important it is for evidence to be properly secured and what can happen if it is not handled properly.**
11. List at least 3 things you found interesting about this case: (3 points)  
**The case was handled poorly by local police  
The police won't release the DNA evidence  
The killer might have used the ransom note to make it look like the parents were involved**
12. Sources: (Record links to your sources.) (2 points)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93UdoApio5s&ab\\_channel=60MinutesAustralia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93UdoApio5s&ab_channel=60MinutesAustralia)

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/inside-mistakes-jonbenet-ramsey-investigation-noted-police-chief/story?id=29247378>

<http://www.expert-handwriting-analysis.com/jonbenet-ramsey/>